



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arctic Field Office
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In reply refer to:
FF095708
2930.00 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2012-0033-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Mountain Monarchs of Alaska
Dave Leonard
35555 Kenai Spur Highway
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Proposed Action: Special Recreation Permit to conduct guided hunting in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A).

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Dave Leonard, of Mountain Monarchs of Alaska (MMA) has requested to renew his authorization for a special recreation permit to conduct guided hunting operations on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands within in the NPR-A.

The proposed action would authorize a renewal of a Special Recreation Authorization to MMA to conduct guided hunting trips on BLM managed lands in the vicinity of the Etivluk River on the North Slope of Alaska (Figure 1). The hunts would take place from August 1st to September 20th, 2012. Mountain Monarchs would guide between 5 and 20 hunters. Hunters would fly commercially to Bettles and from there they would fly with Brooks Range Aviation to Pac Paddle Lake to MMA's base camp. Clients would hunt either in the vicinity of the lake or fly to an area nearby.

Mr. Leonard has two registered guides who assist with the guided trips. All guides and pilots have satellite phones, EPIRBS, and aircraft handheld radios. Mountain Monarch's operating plan includes the use of a 1955 Piper Supercub. A pit toilet is proposed for human waste. Both Mr. Leonard and his employees have years of experience and have attended safety training. No fuel would be stored on site.

While Mr. Leonard has been conducting this kind of activity since 1985, this would be his third year of holding a BLM SRP. An Environmental Assessment was written for this project in 2010

(DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2010-0036-EA) with a finding of no significant impact. The proposed action this year would not be different from the 2010 EA.

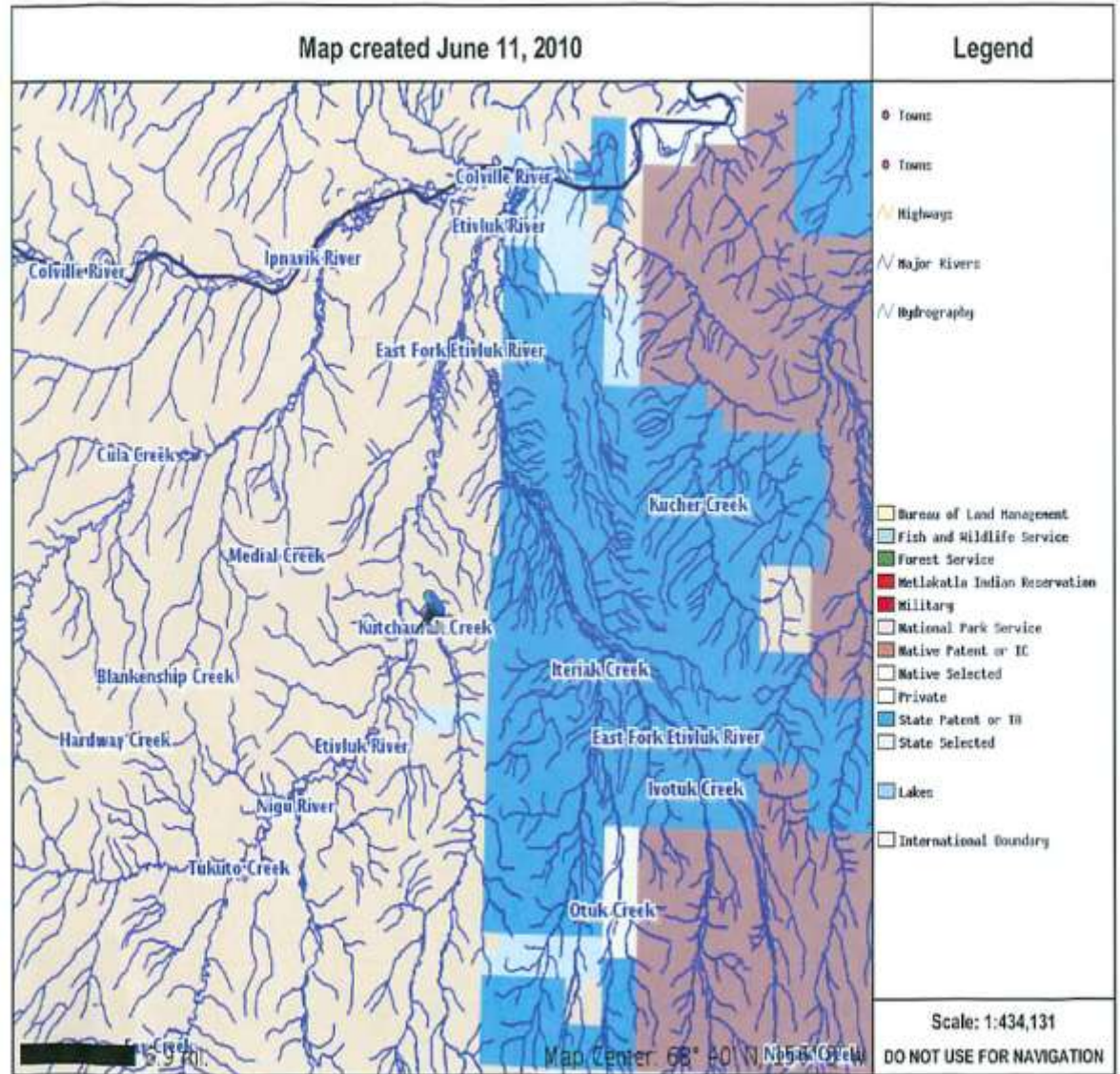


Figure 1 Map submitted by applicant

Legal Land Description (All Umiat Meridian)

| Township | Range | Section | |
|-----------------|--------------|---|---|
| 5 South | 22 West | 1-36 | |
| 5 South | 21 West | 1-36 | |
| 5 South | 20 West | 1-36 | |
| 5 South | 19 West | 1-36 | |
| 5 South | 18 West | 1-36 | |
| 5 South | 17 West | 1-36 | |
| 5 South | 15 West | 3-7,9,10,16-21,28-30 (Excluding Private Lands) | Contains Regional Selection (Not available for use) |
| 6 South | 22 West | 1-36 | |
| 6 South | 21 West | 1-36 | |
| 6 South | 20 West | 1-36 | |
| 6 South | 19 West | 1-36 | |
| 6 South | 18 West | 1-36 | |
| 6 South | 17 West | 1-27,29-32,34-36 (Excluding Private Lands) | Contains State Selection |
| 6 South | 16 West | 4-6,9,16,18-21,28-33 (Excluding Private Lands) | Contains State Selection & Regional Selection (Reg/Sel not available for use) |
| 7 South | 21 West | 1-36 | |
| 7 South | 20 West | 1-36 | |
| 7 South | 19 West | 1-36 | |
| 7 South | 18 West | 1-36 | |
| 7 South | 17 West | 5-8,17-20,29-32 (Excluding Private Lands) | |
| 8 South | 22 West | 1-36 | |
| 8 South | 21 West | 1-36 | |
| 8 South | 20 West | 1-36 | |

| | | | |
|----------|---------|---|--------------------------|
| 8 South | 19 West | 1-36 | |
| 8 South | 18 West | 1-36 | |
| 8 South | 17 West | 5-8,17-20,29-32 (Excluding Private Lands) | |
| 9 South | 22 West | 1-36 | |
| 9 South | 21 West | 1-36 | |
| 9 South | 20 West | 1-36 | |
| 9 South | 19 West | 1-36 | |
| 9 South | 18 West | 1-36 (Excluding Private Lands) | |
| 10 South | 22 West | 1-36 | |
| 10 South | 21 West | 1-36 | |
| 10 South | 20 West | 1-36 | |
| 10 South | 19 West | 1-36 | |
| 10 South | 18 West | 1-36 (Excluding Private Lands) | |
| 11 South | 22 West | 1-36 | |
| 11 South | 21 West | 1-36 | |
| 11 South | 20 West | 1-36 | |
| 11 South | 19 West | 1-36 | |
| 11 South | 18 West | 1-36 (Excluding Private Lands) | |
| 12 South | 22 West | 1-36 | |
| 12 South | 21 West | 1-36 | |
| 12 South | 20 West | 1-36 | |
| 12 South | 19 West | 1-36 | |
| 12 South | 18 West | 1-36 (Excluding Private Lands) | Contains State Selection |

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents:

Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (IAP/EIS) 2004.

Central Arctic Management Area Wilderness Recommendations Final Environmental Impact Statement approved September 14, 1988.

Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved 1/11/1991

Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement approved 9/27/1989

Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and Record of Decision approved 5/1983

The National Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976

The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled “FF095708 Mountain Monarchs of Alaska SRP Stipulations 2012” and “United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations.”

Date **June 13, 2012**

/s/Donna L. Wixon

Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

Part II: NEPA Review

Categorical Exclusion Review.

This proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 national Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 4- H. BLM Categorical Exclusions.

“Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.”

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

| Extraordinary Circumstances | Yes | No |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety. | | X |
| 2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. | | X |
| 2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)]. | | X |
| 2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | | X |
| 2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | | X |
| 2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | | X |
| 2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office. | | X |
| 2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. | | X |
| 2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | | X |
| 2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). | | X |
| 2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007). | | X |
| 2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112). | | X |

Date **June 13, 2012**

/s/Donna L. Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office